



# KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **NEXT-GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW**

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – A draft of the Next-Generation Science Standards (NGSS) is now available for public review. The NGSS are available at <http://www.nextgenscience.org/next-generation-science-standards>, and the public comment period continues until June 1.

The Kentucky Department of Education encourages educators, parents, business people, scientists, engineers and all others interested in science education to review the draft standards and submit their comments. This public review period is an important opportunity for Kentucky residents to influence the standards that will guide how our nation's students will learn science for years to come.

Senate Bill 1, passed in the 2009 session of the Kentucky General Assembly, required that subject-area standards taught in the public school system be revised. Kentucky has adopted the Common Core Standards in English/language arts and mathematics and will revise its science standards based on the final version of the NGSS. The NGSS are designed to prepare students for college and/or careers and enable them to pursue expanding employment opportunities in science-related fields.

In 2011, Kentucky, along with 25 other states, was chosen as a lead state in the development of the NGSS. The process is directed by [Achieve, Inc.](#), a non-partisan education non-profit organization

The NGSS is a set of science education standards that are being developed based on a vision for science education established by the [Framework for K-12 Science Education](#) published by the National Research Council in 2011. Publication of the framework was the first step of a two-step process to produce a set of next-generation science standards for voluntary adoption by the states.

(more)

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## Page 2 – Next-Generation Science Standards

The vision of the framework is that all students, over multiple years of school, actively engage in science and engineering practices and apply concepts that cover many areas to deepen their understanding of the core ideas in these fields. The framework represents the first comprehensive document in more than 16 years that addresses the needs of science and engineering education. It organizes science education around three dimensions:

1. Scientific and Engineering Practices
2. Crosscutting Concepts
3. Disciplinary Core Ideas

These three dimensions are intended to be integrated into standards, assessment, curriculum and instruction. For example, students should use the practices – such as conducting investigations and then analyzing and interpreting the data – to learn more about the core ideas. The framework can be downloaded from [http://www7.nationalacademies.org/bose/Standards\\_Framework\\_Homepage.html](http://www7.nationalacademies.org/bose/Standards_Framework_Homepage.html).

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